



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 29, 2020

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: Senate Bill 161 - Crimes - Hate Crimes - Use of an Item or a Symbol to Threaten or Intimidate

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 161. This legislation prohibits the placing or inscription of a symbol of hate on public or private property, without the express permission of the owner, with the intent to threaten.

Municipalities strive to promote diverse and inclusive communities in which its residents and visitors feel safe. When a known symbol of hate is displayed with the intent to intimidate, these goals are threatened. The prohibition on display on public property plus potential criminal penalties for the offender offer a deterrent and recourse for municipalities to address this situation should it arise. There is no place for this type of display on municipal property.

For these reasons, the League supports Senate Bill 161 and respectfully requests that the committee report the bill favorably.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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